Osprey Fly Box

ABC (Already Been Chewed)

contributed by

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I came to fly fishing later in life *(40ish)* under the tutelage of my father-in-law. He was a WW2 displaced person from Czechoslovakia and the family left behind a fishing lodge on the Thaya River.

He was a lifetime fisher, starting in diapers and ending soon after a last season, with his oxygen tank beside him, searching for one more fish.

He did not experiment much. He basically fished trout with one fly. It was *(is)* primitive but effective. Sort of a Tom Thumb. The fly materials were BASIC consisting of a #10 hook, black Thread, and deer hair. He wrapped the hook with thread, bunched the deer hair over the hook and tied it at each end. Sometimes the body had a bit of Pheasant Tail or other material wrapped into the thread. Both the Deer Hair and Pheasant tail were materials obtained from hunter friends. To say his fly-tying kit was “basic” would be an exaggeration.

He fished the fly dry, wet or trolled from a canoe. In his hands, it frequently out-fished anyone else around. Almost



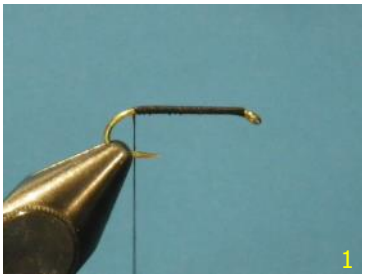
always, the more the fly had been chewed the more effective it got. So, the fly of the month is sort of Tom Thumb that transforms after a bit of breaking in, into the ABC fly. His and many of our family’s best times were camping on the side of a lake, out on the water on a still evening, surrounded by cooperating trout learning their ABC's.

Materials



Hook:	Mustad 3906B 1XL Nymph Hook Size: #10 to #14
Thread:	Uni 6/0 Black
Tail:	Natural Deer Hair
Body:	Uni 6/0 Black Thread (*Pheasant Tail or Peacock Herl)*
Shellback:	Natural Deer Hair
Head:	Natural Deer Hair or Butts Trimmed

Tying Instructions



1. Start the thread on the hook and cover the shank to the bend.
2. Clip a very sparse bunch of Deer Hair from the hide and remove the fuzz and stack. Form about a shank length tail and bind down to just behind the eye.



Tying Instructions

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3. Clip another sparse bunch of Deer Hair from the Hide, remove the Fuzz and stack. Measure the hair so it extends the length of the tail past the tail, trim the butts just behind the Eye and bind down to the start of the tail, then return the thread to the Eye.
4. Pull the Deer Hair over the thread body and tie down just behind the eye.





5. Lift the Deer Hair and whip finish at the Eye. Add a drop of Head Cement.
6. An ABC after a few fish. Yes it still catches un-suspecting Trout.





7. A version of an ABC with the Deer Hair clipped like an Elk Hair Caddis.
8. The Clipped version after a few fish. Keep on fishing until all the hair is gone.





9. A version with a Pheasant Tail body.

Tight Lines & Good Luck!